Optic Urethrotomy

**Item Number:** 37327

Why is it done?

 To treat a narrowing in the urethra which has formed due to previous damage/injury to the urethra.

 Causes: after bypass surgery where a drop in blood pressure has caused an area of low blood supply to the urethra; trauma to the urethra (pelvic fractures/ urethral instrumentation); and sexually transmitted diseases.

 The procedure entails cutting the stricture with a cold knife.

 It also prevents eventual kidney damage/failure.

 

How is it done?

 A urethroscopy is performed by placing a camera in the urethra, with the help of a lubricant jelly and an irrigant fluid, to identify the stricture.

 A cold knife is then used to cut the stricture open.

 The inside of the bladder is viewed for pathology.

 If any suspicious lesions are seen, a biopsy will be taken.

 Prophylactic antibiotics may be given to prevent infection.

 

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Complications

**Side–effects**

 Patients will spend the night in hospital.

 Patients will be sent home with a catheter for 3 days after receiving thorough catheter care Instructions.

 Arrangements will be made to remove the catheter on day 3.

 There may be some blood in the urine. This can be remedied by drinking plenty of fluids until it clears.

 

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